



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: June 10, 2004

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn  
(410) 313-2236

### **Report Shows Crime Rate Lower than Ever**

*Lowest Since Record-Keeping Began in 1975, Despite Population Increases;  
Small Fluctuations in First Quarter, 2004 Data*

The Howard County Police Department released a Uniform Crime Report today that reflected a crime rate at its lowest point since 1975, when the state began keeping such records. The report showed the most dramatic decrease was in recent years, despite significant population increases. The report also included crime statistics for the first quarter of 2004, January through March. It compares data from the first quarter of 2004 to the same time period last year and reflects small fluctuations in numbers.

The Howard County crime rate was 5,631 per 100,000 residents in 1975 and remained relatively constant through the late 1980's. The rate began to drop in the 1990's and decreased most significantly in recent years, with a drop to 2,870 in 2003.

"It can be difficult to analyze crime data in small time periods, like quarter to quarter or even year to year," said Police Chief G. Wayne Livesay. "This data helps us better understand true trends over time to appropriately dedicate resources."

The first quarter report showed small fluctuations in numbers, with slight increases in some areas and decreases in others, when compared to the same time period in 2003. For example, the first quarter of 2004 saw one more robbery and 12 more burglaries than the first quarter of 2003. It also saw five fewer rapes and eight fewer auto thefts.

Adult arrests were up in the first quarter, with an increase of more than 15 percent. Juvenile arrests decreased by three percent.

###

**Editor's Note:** For a complete copy of the UCR report dating back to 1975 or the first quarter crime report, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (410) 313-2236.